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VIA ECFS

September 1, 2015

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20554

Re: Section 63.71 Application of Loretto Telephone Company, Inc. for Authority to Discontinue Certain Services

JSI respectfully files the enclosed Application of Loretto Telephone Company, Inc. for Authority to Discontinue Certain Services. This filing is made in compliance with Section 63.71 of the Commission's rules (47 C.F.R. § 63.71).

Sincerely,

Valerie Wimer Vice President

on behalf of

Desda K. Hutchins Chief Financial Officer Loretto Telephone Company, Inc.

Enclosures

cc: Desda Hutchins, Loretto Telephone Company, Inc.

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)		
)		
Section 63.71 Application of)	Comp. Pol. File No	
Loretto Telephone Company, Inc.)	_	
For Authority to Discontinue)		
Certain Services)		

SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION

Pursuant to Sections 63.71 of the Commission's Rules¹ and Section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,² Loretto Telephone Company, Inc. ("Loretto" or the "Company") hereby files this application to discontinue the provision of certain local operator and directory assistance services to customers that the Company serves in the State of Tennessee ("Application").³ In support of this Application, Loretto submits the following:

I. <u>Information Required by Section 63.71(a)(1) -(4)</u>

A. Name and Address of Carrier

Loretto Telephone Company, Inc. 136 S. Main St. Loretto, TN 38469

For purposes of this Application, the Commission may contact:

Desda K. Hutchins Loretto Telephone Company, Inc. 136 S. Main St. Loretto, TN 38469 931/853-4351 desda.hutchins@lorettotel.net

B. Date of Planned Service Discontinuance

² See 47 U.S.C. § 214(a).

See 47 C.F.R. § 63.71.

As required by Section 63.71(a) of the Commission's Rules, Loretto has notified and submitted a copy of this Application concurrent with this filing to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, the Governor of Tennessee, and the Secretary of the Department of Defense.

Loretto will discontinue certain local operator and directory assistance services to its customers in the State of Tennessee on or about November 30, 2015, or upon completion of all necessary federal and state regulatory approvals.

C. Points of Geographic Areas of Service Affected

Affected Loretto local exchange customers are in the Company's service area of the following exchanges in Lawrence, Giles, and Wayne Counties:

Loretto (853) Leoma (852) Ethridge (829) St. Joseph (845) Five Points (556)

D. Brief Description of the Types of Service Affected

In the areas referenced above, Loretto provides the following services which will be discontinued:

Calling card, third number billed, busy line verification, busy line interrupt and local directory assistance (collectively, "Affected Services"). This discontinuance is limited to the Affected Services.

II. Brief Description of the Dates and Methods of Notice to All Affected Customers

Notices were sent to all Loretto local exchange customers by method of U.S. Mail via Bill Insert on September 1, 2015. Please reference Exhibit A which is a sample copy of the Notice sent to the affected customers. Loretto deemed a bill insert the most economic method of reaching its rural customers and printed the bill insert on a separate page from the bill to distinguish it from the billing statement and bring sufficient attention to the Notice.

III. Status of Carrier

Loretto is an incumbent local exchange carrier and considered a dominant carrier with respect to the services that it proposes to discontinue in the State of Tennessee.

IV. <u>Circumstances of Discontinuance</u>

The Company's discontinuance of the Affected Services was a business decision based on a lack of customer demand for the service. The Company's customers are using new technologies and choosing widely available alternatives to operator services, operator-assisted calling, directory assistance and busy line verification/interrupt and will not be adversely affected by the Company's discontinuance of Affected Services. Over the last 12 months, less than 0.6% of our customers used our Local Directory Assistance and Operator Services on a daily basis.

Certification V.

On behalf of Loretto Telephone Company, Inc., I, the undersigned Chief Financial Officer, Desda K. Hutchins, hereby certify that the statements contained herein are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and made in good faith.

Conclusion VI.

September 1, 2015

For the reasons stated herein, the Company respectfully requests grant of this Application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Desda K. Hutchins Chief Financial Officer

Loretto Telephone Company, Inc.

136 S. Main St. Loretto, TN 38469

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Section 63.71 Application was served this <u>1st</u> day of September 2015, by mailing true and correct copies thereof, postage prepaid, to the following persons at the addresses listed below.

Tennessee Regulatory Authority Chairman, Tennessee Regulatory Authority c/o Sharla Dillon, Dockets and Records Manager 502 Deaderick Street, 4th Floor Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Office of Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam State Capitol, 1st Floor 600 Charlotte Ave Nashville, TN 37243

Secretary of Defense Attn: Special Assistant for Telecommunications, Pentagon Washington, DC 20301

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EXHIBIT A

CUSTOMER NOTICE

Loretto Telephone Company, Inc.

P.O. BOX 130 • 136 SO. MAIN STREET

— LORETTO, TENNESSEE 38469 —

CUSTOMER NOTICE

September 1, 2015

RE: Notice of Discontinuance of Operator Services & Local Directory Assistance

This notice is to inform you that on or after November 30, 2015, Loretto Telephone Company, Inc, will no longer be providing certain operator services within the State of Tennessee. Customers who attempt to reach the discontinued services will receive a recorded message to indicate the service is not available.

Specifically, the following services will be discontinued: calling card, third number billed, busy line verification, busy line interrupt and local directory assistance. The service being discontinued involves "0" dialing to reach a local operator. Note that you will continue to have access to a long distance operator by dialing "00" if operator services are offered by your presubscribed long distance provider.

This discontinuance is limited to the above operator services & local directory assistance, and will not affect your Loretto Telephone Company service in any other way.

The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or you may address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the §63.71 Application of Loretto Telephone Company, Inc. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

If you have any questions about this notice or Loretto Telephone Company's operator services & local directory assistance discontinuance, please contact Desda K. Hutchins at 853-4351.

We thank you for your business and look forward to continuing to serve your communications needs.